

Message

From: Loesel, Matthew [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F2136F67BD8644149EF4883722E4DA9A-LOESEL, MATT]
Sent: 12/5/2019 1:47:11 PM
To: Jhana Enders (Enders.Jhana@epa.gov) [Enders.Jhana@epa.gov]
Subject: Report

R6 Daily Ops Status Report

Current Status(8:46 AM EST on 12/5/2019)

Report Activities(12/4/2019 to 12/5/2019)

Personnel	
R1:	Martin
Tel Duty:	Enders

Outposted OSC's

Houston, TX	Zehner
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Available Personnel

A Adams(OSC)	Bernier(OSC)	Brescia(OSC)
Carroll(Other)	Delgado(OSC)	Enders(OSC)
Fisher(OSC)	Guidry(OSC)	Loesel(OSC)
Martin(OSC)	McAteer(OSC)	P Adams(OSC)
P Delgado(OSC)	Patel(OSC)	Petersen(Other)
Robertson(OSC)	Rouse(OSC)	Smalley(Other)
Zehner(OSC - Outposted)		

Unavailable Personnel

Fife(OSC)	Mason(OSC)	Moore(OSC)
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Spill Notifications

					Total Spills: 13
State	Oil	Haz	Rad	Other	
AR		0	0	0	0
LA		1	1	0	0
NM		0	0	0	0
OK		1	0	0	1
TX		6	2	0	1

Regional Spot Reports

Date:	12/5/2019	Watch Officer:	Matthew Loesel	Media Interest:	High
Event Title:	Explosion at TPC Facility in Port Neches, TX				

Overview:	<p>On November 27, 2019, a report was received from the National Response Center about an explosion at a facility in Port Neches, TX.</p> <p>A second explosion occurred at approximately 1400 on November 27, 2019. Residents within a four-mile radius of the site were ordered to evacuate. The evacuation was lifted at 1000 on November 29, 2019.</p> <p>South 4 Group Fire 19:00 on 120419 Update Since mid-day yesterday, winds shifted from blowing toward the SE to a calm wind blowing to the west last night and now from the northwest again. At 10 am, it's projected winds will increase to about 10mph and continue toward the NW. As the winds shifted, elevated concentrations of 1,3-Butadiene were reported in the community located southwest of the Site (sustained at approximately 0.7 ppm) and the fire station (sustained at approximately 9.0 ppm) located at the southwest boundary of the Site. Measurements were confirmed, and Unified Command notified the local authorities. The County Judge recommended sheltering in place for Port Neches effective from 6:00 pm on December 4, 2019 until 6:00 am on December 5, 2019. Elevated 1,3-Butadiene concentrations continue to be monitored in the community at this time. Unified Command continues to evaluate the situation. The Port Neches- Grove ISD has canceled school for the remainder of the week.</p> <p>South 4 Group Fire 21:45 on 120419 - Voluntary Evacuation Order Winds continue toward the west. Air monitoring concentrations for 1,3-Butadiene continue to be measured in the community over the last hour with a maximum of 5.0 ppm, average 1.031 ppm from 27 detections by TPC. Over the last 7.75 hours since 1400 hours, the 1,3-Butadiene measured detections average 1.79 ppm from 196 detections with a maximum of 12.09 ppm in the community. TPC is working to repair/replace the relief valve on the tank (25) and continues suppressing vapors utilizing a water curtain. The Judge plans to issue a voluntary evacuation order for the city of Port Neches shortly.</p> <p>South 4 Group Fire 0600 update Local authority issued and are maintaining the voluntary evacuation order and will continue to assess the status with UC's continuous operations to secure the tank (25) and conducting air monitoring in the community.</p>				
State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:	TCEQ continues to monitor the situation and has multiple air teams in the community.				
EPA Actions:	EPA is adding additional air monitoring resources and has requested assistance from ATSDR. ATSDR will be deploying to the Site EOC as will an asbestos expert from region 6.				
Notes:	This is an update out of the normal schedule due to Shelter in place				
Date:	12/5/2019	Watch Officer:	Jhana Enders	Media Interest:	None
Event Title:	Silver City Mercury				
Overview:	The incident occurred on 11.29.19 and involved three adults at a rental property. It was reported that approximately 2 tablespoons (1 lb) of mercury was released within the trailer				

	house. The Las Cruces NM Fire Department (FD) responded to the incident with the NM State Police. The FD utilized a mercury spill kit and the state's Lumex mercury analyzer to address the gross contamination. The FD secured the gross contamination into plastic bags and left them within the trailer. On 12/02/19, the NMDOH submitted NRC report #1265288 and on 12.03.19 requested EPA assistance.				
State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:	The Las Cruces NM Fire Department and NM State Police initially responded to the incident. State agencies include the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) and the New Mexico Department of Public Safety (NMDPS). Other federal agencies include the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).				
EPA Actions:	OSC Martin and START deployed to a mercury spill in Silver City, NM at the request of the NM Department of Health (NMDOH). Upon arrival at the incident location, the EPA team met with the property manager of the trailer park. The manager reported that the occupants were under an eviction notice which will become final Friday December 6 at 4 PM. START made an entry to survey the inside of the trailer. They detected mercury vapor levels from 15 to 90 micrograms per cubic meter within the trailer breathing space, and 96 micrograms per cubic meter within the dryer. No media involvement at this time.				
Notes:					
Date:	12/4/2019	Watch Officer:	Jhana Enders	Media Interest:	Medium
Event Title:	TPC Group Plant Explosion and Fire Update				
Overview:	Early in the morning on November 27, the National Response Center received a report about an explosion at TPC Group Facility in Port Neches, TX. The facility is regulated under the Risk Management Program. At approximately 1400 CST on November 27, a secondary explosion occurred. Residents within a four-mile radius of the facility were ordered to evacuate. At 1000 hours on November 29, the Jefferson County judge rescinded the mandatory evacuation. As of 1830 hours on December 3, the remaining fire self-extinguished in the process area. TPC continues to provide water for vapor suppression at 6,000 to 8,000 gallons per minute across the area				
State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:	The Port Neches-Groves Independent School District re-opened on December 3. Air monitoring teams from CTEH, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and EPA have coordinated to assure continuous air monitoring in the area of the schools. CTEH also continues air monitoring efforts in the work area and community. CTEH assessment teams have identified asbestos containing material to the northeast of the facility, up to seven miles away. TPC initiated modeling based on weather conditions to help identify potential impact areas. Teams are responding to reports and recovering material as identified. To date, TPC reports approximately 40 homes have reported debris concerns on their properties to the TPC hotline. On December 3, 2019 Unified Command received a report documenting all impacted wildlife observed or collected since December 1 (54 fish carcasses were collected downstream of the Site. Additionally, 30 fish, 24 crabs, 1 alligator, 2 birds, and approximately 2,000 shad carcasses were observed downstream of the site).				
EPA Actions:	EPA is serving as the lead federal agency for response efforts. As of 1500, December 4, EPA is deploying 4 personnel and 8 contractors to Port Neches, and 3 EPA personnel 7 contractors are supporting the response remotely. A Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) team continued assessments on December 4 along the 201 Canal and Star Lake Canal. The teams				

included state, federal (USCG) and facility representation. The SCAT team's findings will be developed into a clean-up action plan as determined to be necessary. EPA collected five water samples on the afternoon of December 3 in the affected canal up to the Neches River and one water sample upstream of the incident. The EPA water samples will be analyzed for VOCs, SVOCs, Oil and Grease, Glycols, Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons, and Total Organic Carbon. The EPA water samples were delivered to Houston for analysis on Monday morning. The samples will also be analyzed for PFAS compounds. No additional water sampling was conducted on December 4.

EPA has mobilized an asbestos specialist to advise on asbestos clean-up activities. EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) conducted a fly-over of the site on the morning of December 4 and reported no detections. EPA requested onsite support from ATSDR and Texas Department of State Health Services for reviewing data and communicating observations and human health concerns to the community. The ATSDR team will be mobilizing on December 5 to join Unified Command.

As winds shifted from the west, elevated concentrations of 1,3-Butadiene were reported in the community located southwest of the Site (sustained at approximately 0.7 ppm) and the fire station (sustained at approximately 9.0 ppm) located at the southwest boundary of the Site. Measurements were confirmed, and Unified Command notified the local authorities. The County Judge recommended sheltering in place for Port Neches effective from 6:00 pm on December 4, 2019 until 6:00 am on December 5, 2019. Elevated 1,3-Butadiene concentrations continue to be monitored in the community at this time. Unified Command continues to evaluate the situation. The Port Neches- Grove ISD has canceled school for the remainder of the week.

A Story Map has been created for the incident and is public at the <https://response.epa.gov/south4groupfire> website.

Notes:

HQ Spot Reports

No HQ Spot Reports for this reporting period

Exercises

No exercises for this reporting period